

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR ITALIAN JOURNALIST, PETER
DRAGADZE

1. CORRESPONDENT PETER DRAGADZE HAS BEEN ASKED BY ONE OF ITALY'S
LARGEST CIRCULATION WEEKLY MAGAZINES, GENTE, TO EXPLORE POSSI-
BILITIES OF DOING A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON U.S. HE PLANS TO
SPEND SIX WEEKS IN THE U.S. FROM APRIL 15 THROUGH MAY 31.

2. DECISION TO PROCEED WITH TRIP DEPENDS ON WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE
TO ARRANGE INTERVIEW WITH EITHER PRESIDENT CARTER OR VP MONDALE.

3. DRAGADZE IS WELL KNOWN AND WRITES FOR GENTE (ITALY),
SVENSK DAMTIDNING (SWEDEN). NORSK UKERBLADT (NORWAY), BUNTE
ILLUSTRIET (GERMANY), SONTAD-B-T (DENMARK), AND GREEK FORUM
(GREECE), AS WELL AS TOWN AND COUNTRY AND OCCASIONALLY FOR THE
LOS ANGELES TIMES. HE HAS DONE NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS WITH CHIEFS
OF STATE AND EUROPEAN NOBILITY AS WELL AS CULTURAL AND LITERARY
FIGURES SUCHAS MARIA CALLAS, YEVTUCHENKO, JOHN K. GALBRAITH,
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ARTHUR SCHLESINGER.

4. DRAGADZE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE POST, AND HAS WRITTEN FOR
THE ITALIAN VERSION OF USIA'S HORIZONS USA. WE BELIEVE THAT
HIS TRIP WOULD RESULT IN HEAVY, SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE OF MANY
ASPECTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT EUROPEAN
MAGAZINES, AND WISH TO PROVIDE EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE.

5. POST RECOMMENDS THAT FOREIGN PRESS CENTER REQUEST INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT. MONDALE HAS JUST BEEN DECORATED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO ITALIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION. AN INTERVIEW WOULD FORTIFY THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF HIS AWARD AND WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VP TO EXPRESS HIS APPRECIATION TO THE ITALIAN PEOPLE. DRAGADZE DOES NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE ITALIAN POLITICAL CRISIS NOR ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS, BUT RATHER TO SHOW WHO ITALY'S FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE. THUS ONE ARTICLE WILL BE A HUMAN INTEREST STORY, WHILE ANOTHER WILL PROBABLY BE A POLITICAL PROFILE OF THE VP.

6. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH VP MONDALE, THE POST WILL THEN SUGGEST FURTHER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES. BUT, WE REPEAT, THE ENTIRE PROJECT DEPENDS ON THE ABILITY TO SECURE AN INTERVIEW WITH AT LEAST ONE MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE. SHIRLEY

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